



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Consumer
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO
80204-2581

Reply to
Attn of:

SP 99-20
CACFP 581
SFSP 388

JUN 16 1999

Subject:

Eligibility of Kosovar Refugees for the Child Nutrition
Programs (CNP)

To:

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS -
(Child Nutrition Programs)

Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE,
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH,
Missouri ED, Montana DPHSS,
Montana OPI, Nebraska ED,
North Dakota, South Dakota
Utah, Wyoming ED

This memorandum provides you with information concerning the eligibility of Kosovar refugees for the CNPs. In general, as you are aware, there are no Federal citizenship requirements for benefits for any of the CNP programs. In addition, although Section 742(b) of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, give States the authority to deny benefits in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and the Special Milk Program to certain non-citizens, it specifically excludes "qualified aliens" from the category of "non-citizens" to which this authority applies. Since "qualified aliens" are defined in the statute to include refugees and since the Office of Management and Budget has determined that the Kosovar refugees will be accorded full refugee status, no State-established citizenship requirement would apply to them. As a result, eligibility determinations for these refugees will be like those for all other potentially eligible persons.

In the CNPs, the refugee children are eligible for benefits as long as they are enrolled in a participating school, child care institution, or summer feeding program and meet the criteria established for the Programs. Free and reduced price eligibility determinations, where applicable, are to be made in accordance with existing policies.

All State Agency Directors

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If you have questions or concerns on the above, please feel free to contact our office.

Darlene Sanchez

for ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Child Nutrition Programs